1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A valve plug head assembly comprising:

(A) a means for holding a valve plug head to a valve plug stem, having a plug stem base and a plug stem base cavity, wherein said means for holding further comprises a plug head band, fitted between said valve plug head and a recess in said plug stem base cavity, said plug head band having a first side and a second side and having said second side fitted inside said recess in said plug stem base cavity; and a band retainer fitted over said plug head band and fixed by a device to said plug stem base, said device being selected from the group consisting of a bolt, a pin, a screw, a weld, a braze, and a clamp; and

(B) a means for fastening said means for holding to said valve plug stem.

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A valve plug head assembly, as recited in claim 13, wherein said means for fastening further comprises a plurality of bolts, and a plurality of nuts.

16. (currently amended) A valve plug head assembly, as recited in claim 13, wherein said ~~means for holding further comprises a band in contact with said valve plug head and said valve plug stem and wherein said band further comprises a first side and a second side and wherein said~~ first side of said plug head band is greater in height than said second side of said plug head band.

17. (previously presented) A valve plug head assembly, as recited in claim 13, wherein said means for fastening further comprises one or more pins.

18. (previously presented) A valve plug head assembly, as recited in claim 13, wherein said plug head is further comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of structural ceramics, cermets, cast irons, silicon irons, white irons, martensitic steels, and CrCoFe alloys.

19. (currently amended) A valve plug head assembly, as recited in claim 13, wherein said plug head band of said means for holding further is in contact with said valve plug head and said valve plug stem and wherein said plug head band is composed of a ductile material ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of titanium and its alloys, zirconium and its alloys, niobium and its alloys, titanium-niobium alloys, alloy steels, carbon steels, iron-base superalloys, stainless steels, nickel and its alloys, nickel-base superalloys, copper based alloys, cobalt alloys, cobalt-base superalloys, aluminum and its alloys, magnesium alloys, and tantalum.

20. (previously presented) A valve plug head assembly, as recited in claim 13, wherein said band is composed of a first material and said plug head is composed of a second material and where said first material is different from said second material.